

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 083039  
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00  
CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02  
OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00  
NSC-05 /083 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/ISP:MHUMPHREYS:SHC

APPROVED BY ACDA/ISP:JNEWHOUSE

OSD:DMCGIFFERT

JCS:JCLELAND

ACDA/ISP:LFISCHER

PM:LGELB

EUR:JGOODBY

S/P:PWILSON

NSC:RBARTHOLOMEW

-----060942 311616Z /53

O 311549Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE RUDORRA

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 083039

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT:MBFR: NEXT STEPS ON THE NATO INITIATIVE

REF: BONN 5113 (DTG 211736Z MAR 78)

1. WE HAVE CONSIDERED THE QUESTION OF NEXT STEPS IN  
PRESENTING THE NATO MBFR INITIATIVE TO THE EAST IN VIENNA.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 083039

NOW THAT DISAGGREGATED GROUND FORCE MANPOWER DATA HAS BEEN  
EXCHANGED, AND ASSUMING THAT AIR FORCE MANPOWER DATA WILL BE  
EXCHANGED ON APRIL 4 AS NOW PLANNED, WE BELIEVE THE ALLIES  
SHOULD CAPITALIZE ON THE MOMENTUM PROVIDED BY THE SUCCESS-  
FUL DATA EXCHANGE AND PROCEED WITH THE NATO INITIATIVE.

2. WE SEE CLEAR ADVANTAGES IN TABLING THE INITIATIVE BEFORE

THE END OF THIS ROUND FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. TABLING THE INITIATIVE MAY SPUR THE EAST TOWARD A MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE IN THE DATA DISCUSSION WHICH IS ALREADY UNDERWAY IN VIENNA.

B. BECAUSE THE EXISTENCE OF THE INITIATIVE IS PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, THE EAST IS UNLIKELY TO MOVE ON SUBSTANCE IN VIENNA UNTIL THE INITIATIVE IS PRESENTED. THE EAST HAS SIGNALLED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN VIENNA THAT IT IS AWAITING

THE NEW WESTERN PROPOSALS AND THAT THE PROPOSALS MAY CONTAIN ASPECTS OF INTEREST THAT COULD BE BUILT UPON.

C. TABLING THE INITIATIVE DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 10-14 WOULD GIVE THE EAST TIME TO ASK CLARIFYING QUESTIONS, AND RECEIVE WESTERN RESPONSES BEFORE THE END OF THE ROUND. THIS APPROACH WOULD PERMIT THE SOVIET NEGOTIATORS TO WORK ON THEIR RESPONSE WITH THEIR PRINCIPALS IN MOSCOW DURING THE APRIL-MAY RECESS AND THUS GIVE THE WEST THE OPTIMAL CHANCE OF RECEIVING THE BEST POSSIBLE SOVIET RESPONSE.

D. FINALLY, TABLING THE INITIATIVE DURING THIS ROUND WOULD ENABLE THE ALLIANCE TO ENTER BOTH THE SSOD AND THE NATO SUMMIT IN AN IMPROVED POSITION ON AT LEAST ONE MAJOR AREA OF ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS. THE INITIATIVE COULD THEN BE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 083039

GIVEN FURTHER PUBLIC EMPHASIS AT THE SUMMIT.

3. WE WOULD WELCOME ALLIED VIEWS ON TIMING FOR THE TABLING OF THE INITIATIVE AND ON THE QUESTION OF HOW THE WEST CAN GAIN THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM THE INITIATIVE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NATO SUMMIT AND THE SSOD, AND ON TIMING MOST LIKELY TO EVOKE A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE EAST.

4. TO PREPARE THE INITIATIVE FOR TABLING DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 10-14, IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE NAC SHOULD REACH AN EARLY DECISION ON THE TEXT OF GUIDANCE TO THE AHG FOR TABLING THE INITIATIVE.

5. WITH THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND, AMBASSADOR SHOULD CONSULT WITH UK AND FRG PERMREPS AT NATO, DESCRIBE OUR VIEWS AS SET FORTH IN PARAS 1-4 ABOVE, AND STATE THAT UNLESS LONDON OR BONN HAS OBJECTION, WE WILL TAKE THIS LINE IN NATO. US, FRG, AND UK PERMREPS SHOULD WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR EARLY NAC ACTION, NEXT WEEK IF POSSIBLE.

6. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT NATO BE UNITED ON THIS MATTER. WE ARE WILLING TO DEFER TABLING OF INITIATIVE IF THAT IS

THE CONSENSUS OF THE ALLIES. COOPER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DATA, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 mar 1978  
**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE083039  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** MHUMPHREYS:SHC  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780140-0378  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t1978032/aaaaabkf.tel  
**Line Count:** 117  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** d35081bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN ACDA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 BONN 5113  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3187607  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MBFR: NEXT STEPS ON THE NATO INITIATIVE  
**TAGS:** PARM, NATO, MBFR  
**To:** USNATO  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/d35081bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014